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MG-2555 (143*242)

I hereby certify that this paper, along with any other paper or fee referred to in this paper as being transmitted herewith, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First-Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 27th day of December, 2005.

By: Charles R. Bula

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

HILDEBRANDT	:	
	:	
SERIAL NO. 10/726,009	:	Art Unit: 1725
	:	
FILED: DECEMBER 2, 2003	:	
	:	Examiner: Samuel M. Heinrich
FOR: PROTECTIVE GAS FOR THE	:	
NON-VACUUM ELECTRON-	:	
BEAM WELDING OF	:	
METALLIC MATERIALS	:	

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with applicant's duty to disclose attached are PTO-1449 form and the non-U.S. patents referred to therein. With regard to the non-English documents the following is noted.

Although the Abstract for WO 00/53366 is in the English language, U.S. 6,720,520 is also an English language counterpart.

EP 0 458 182 is the counterpart of DE 40 16 181 and includes English language claims.

EP 0 464 392 is the counterpart of DE 40 20 153 and includes English language claims.

EP 0 924 019 contains an English language Abstract and U.S. 5,951,886 is an English language counterpart.

U.S. 3,585,348 is the U.S. counterpart of DE 1 199 419.


Partial translations are provided for JP 56-139293 by the Patent Abstracts of Japan and the Derwent Abstract which are the last two documents listed on PTO-1449 form.

The various documents referred to herein were cited in the corresponding Search Reports from the German Patent Office and the European Patent Office.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 03-2775 with regard to any fee required for this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully Submitted,

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

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Sheet 1 of 2

LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. MG-2555	SERIAL NO. 10/726,009
	APPLICANT HILDEBRANDT	
	FILING DATE 12/2/03	GROUP 1725

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	3,171,943	3/2/65	NIEDZIELSKI			
	AB	3,585,348	6/15/71	ECKSTEIN			
	AC	3,725,633	4/3/73	SCHUMACHER, ET AL.			
	AD	5,603,853	2/18/97	MOMBO-CARISTAN			
	AE	5,951,886	9/14/99	SCHUBERT, ET AL.			
	AF	6,036,076	3/14/00	ROYLE			
	A G	6,720,520	4/13/04	BUCHER, ET AL.			
	A H						
	AI						
	AJ						
	A K						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AL	WO 00/53366	9/14/00	PCT				
	AM	EP 0 458 182 B1	5/15/91	GERMANY				
	A N	EP 0 464 392 B1	6/6/91	GERMANY				
	A O	EP 0 924 019 A3	6/23/99	GERMANY				
	A P	DE 40 16 181 A1	11/21/91	GERMANY				

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED	

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	APPLICANT HILDEBRANDT	
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	A H						
	AI						
	AJ						
	A K						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AL	DE 40 20 153 A1	1/2/92	GERMANY				
	AM	DE 1 199 416	8/26/65	GERMANY				
	A N	JP 56-139293	1981	JAPAN				
	A O	56139293 A	10/30/81	JAPAN				
	A P	JP 1981-91746D [50]	1981	JAPAN				

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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